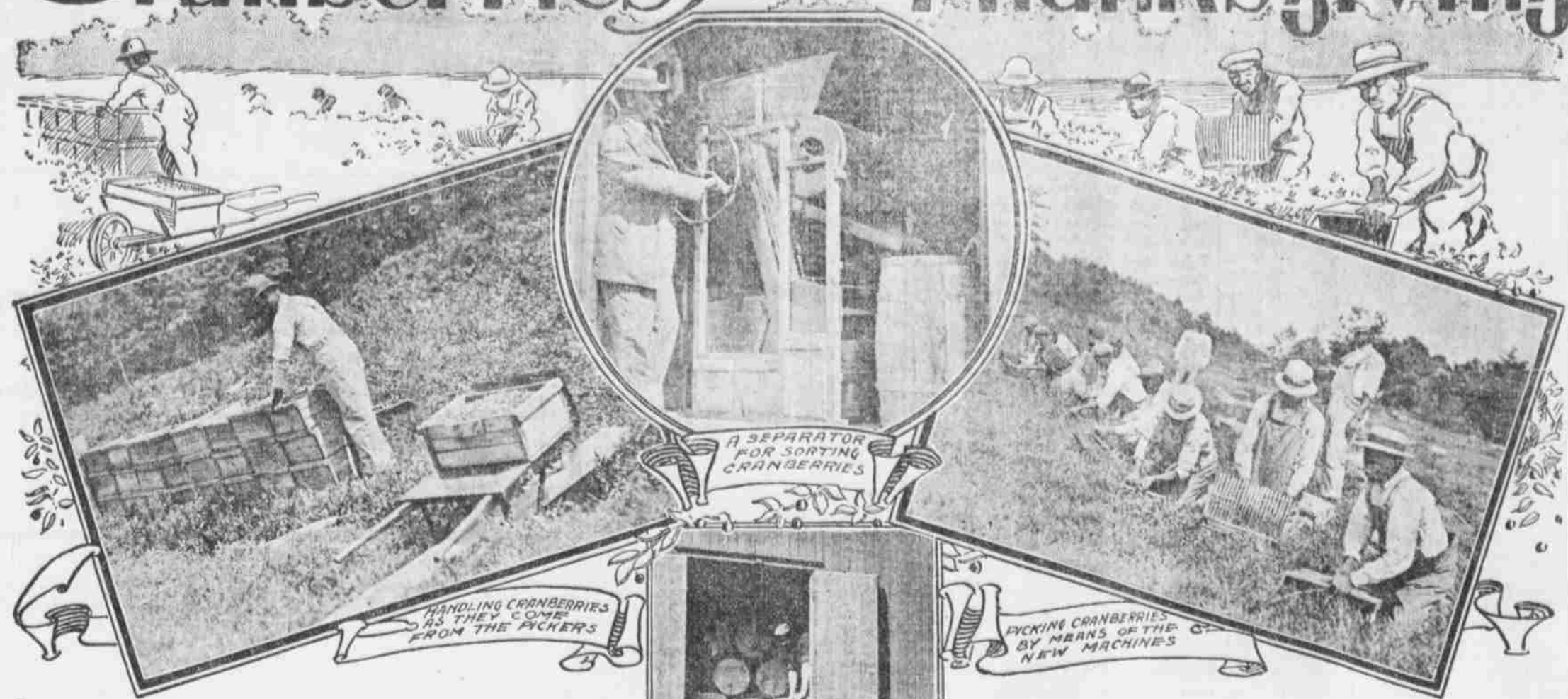


# Cranberries for Thanksgiving



**N**EXT to a goodly supply of turkeys the most important requisite for a successful Thanksgiving is a plentiful measure of cranberries of just the proper tart flavor. As well have a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey as without the appetizing cranberry sauce. However the people of the United States have scant cause to worry because of this feature of their holiday menu. It has been years since a failure of the cranberry crop was reported and cranberry growers are increasing their production areas that despite the increase in demand, due to the country's increase in population and other influences, there continues to be year by year a pretty lavish supply of the crimson berries, and most seasons find them available at very reasonable prices.

Cranberries, like so many of the other good things of life, are distinctly American delicacies. To be sure, cranberries grow wild in some other quarters of the globe—for instance in Europe, but it is only in the United States that they have been cultivated as an article of food. Even here the growing of cranberries is confined largely to three states—Massachusetts, New Jersey and Wisconsin. How important an industry it may be surmised, however,

from the fact that the Cape Cod district in Massachusetts, the greatest cranberry region on the globe, sends to market as many as one-third of a million barrels of cranberries in a single season. The average person is wont to term all berry areas "patches," but cranberries do not grow in patches but in bogs and, as may be surmised from the name, most of these tracts are located adjacent to rivers or lakes or ponds, so that they can be flooded in the late autumn and kept under water until spring. The berries grow on a vine which nestles close to the ground in a perfect tangle, and save for keeping out the weeds and battling with the insect pests, which are numerous, the cranberries do not require very much cultivation or attention until harvest time approaches in the autumn. Then the cranberry grower must look forward to a period of anxiety, a careful, serious scrutiny of the weather. He must keep close watch on the weather, for if a frost comes ere the crop is harvested it will work sad havoc unless the grower has been forewarned and flooded his bog or built great bonfires to keep up the temperature.

In years gone by the harvesting of cranberries was done solely by the hand picking method,

as much as raspberries or strawberries are picked, and most of the cranberry picking was done by women and children. The "Cranberry King" used to hire as many as 1,000 pickers on his great bogs on Cape Cod and the pickers, many of whom journeyed long distances, "camped out" on the bogs during the picking season. The past few years, however, has witnessed a revolution. Now almost all cranberries are picked by the aid of machines, and because it is less time consuming and more profitable, the work of manipulating these machines it has come about that most of the women and children have been forced out of the industry and the task is largely in the hands of men, the more skillful of whom receive from \$3 to \$5 per day. The picking machine most extensively used has the appearance of a huge wooden scoop, the bottom of which is made up of a row of metal bars, tipped with sharp prongs and set close together. In operation this scoop is shoved with some considerable force into the tangle of cranberry vines and then drawn upward and backward with the result that the vines which have been caught slip between the metal bars but leave the berries, which are too large to pass through the openings, as do the vines, and in consequence are stripped from

their stems and remain in the scoop, whence they are transferred to the tray which each picker has close at hand. An expert picker with a machine will do the work of from half a dozen to a dozen hand pickers.

The cranberries as picked on the bogs are placed in huge wooden boxes and transferred to a nearby frame building, where they are passed through a machine known as a "separator," which takes out all the leaves, twigs and other foreign matter. Then they are sorted for the elimination of any bad or worm-eaten berries and finally are placed in barrels, which are hauled away to railroad yards to be loaded into cars to the tune of from 220 to 240 barrels to the car, refrigerator cars being used exclusively. Up to the present time cranberries have been sold in bulk, but this year sees an innovation in the appearance of evaporated cranberries, for which are claimed all the advantages of evaporated peaches or apples, and in the introduction of cranberries put up in pasteboard cartons. Bearing cranberry bogs of the most desirable kind cost from \$600 to \$1,200 per acre, but in a bumper year a grower may get his money back the first year, and during the worst year the industry has known in a decade most of the growers made from 10 to 15 per cent. on their investment, and that, too, in spite of the fact that cranberries were so plentiful that they brought only \$2 a barrel, whereas \$5 to \$7 a barrel is accounted an average price, and there have been years when a famine of cranberries sent the price up to \$10 per barrel.

## Origin of Thanksgiving Festivities

By SAMUEL WILLIAMS

**T**HE autumn of 1621 waned on a prosperous community. Plymouth, Mass., was both healthy and wealthy. Sickness, though it had destroyed one-half the company of pilgrims, had ceased, and the crops, as a whole, had been good, the peas alone failing. All the houses in the settlement had been put into condition and a goodly stock of furs and prepared lumber had been made ready for export to England by the next ship. The waters swarmed with fish and sea fowl were abundant. The call of the wild turkey was heard in the woods and the patter of the fleeing deer was nothing strange.

The summer was past; the harvest ended. The pilgrims decided upon a period of recreation. The governor sent out four huntsmen, who in one day secured game to last the colony a week. Hospitality was extended to Massasoit, of the neighboring settlement, who brought 90 people with him. The guests remained 30 days. The company engaged in rounds of amusements, in which military drills and religious services formed a part. Thus, heartily and loyally, was inaugurated the great New England festival of Thanksgiving. For two centuries it has continued to be observed, at first mostly in the eastern states, but it has now become national, its annual return finding a welcome from boundary to boundary, both at top and bottom and either extremity of the nation.

Thanksgiving day is peculiarly an American custom, though there are some writers who claim that it is not possible to determine the date of the first observance. John A. Goodwin, in his historical review, "The Pilgrim Republic," is positive, however, that the first celebration occurred in 1623, this being followed in 1624 by the first Thanksgiving proclamation, by the governor of Massachusetts. In 1629 there arrived at Plymouth 14 vessels, bringing with them 880 colonists, making the number nearly 1,200 instead of a mere 500. On July 8, 1630, another Thanksgiving was held in acknowledgment for this accession to the ranks of the colonists. The Dutch governors of the New



Netherlands also appointed different dates for public thanksgiving, from time to time, and in some historical works there is record of a dispute as to which of these colonies deserved the credit for having first inaugurated the day. Most of the best founded historians, however, give the credit to the New England states. The Dutch governors of New Netherlands appointed occasional days of thanksgiving in 1614, 1615, 1655 and 1664, and the English governors followed their example in 1755 and 1760, and the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States in its prayer book, ratified in 1789, recommends for Thanksgiving day the first Thursday in November, unless some other day be appointed by the civil authorities. There were also occasional recommendations by other religious bodies, but no regular annual recommendation by the governor of New York before 1817. The struggle of the colonies for independence marks the beginning of

general observance of days of thanksgiving in this country. The congress of 1777, the one which prepared the articles of confederation for adoption by the colonies, adopted a resolution setting apart the eighteenth day of December, 1777, to be observed as a day of solemn thanksgiving and praise throughout the United States. Washington, during his administration, issued two thanksgiving proclamations, one in 1789 and the other in 1795, just after the suppression of the "Whiskey rebellion," which had threatened the peace of the country, and President Madison issued one upon the declaration of peace in 1815. However, in the early years of the nation the rule was for the colonial custom to be followed and the proclamation made emanated from the governors. The western states, largely people from New England or New York, early followed the lead of these portions of the country. As we have seen, the annual recommendation

tion by the governors of New York began in 1817. From that time the observance gradually crept southward and westward, and in 1885 Governor Johnson of Virginia adopted it, and though in 1857 Governor Wise of Virginia declined to make the proclamation on the ground that he was unauthorized to interfere in religious matters, in 1858 a Thanksgiving day was proclaimed in eight of the southern states.

## Decorative Conceits and Favors For the Thanksgiving Festivities

The pious, hard-driven, worn-out, but thankful Puritans who sat down at their tables one November, a few centuries ago, and made the first Thanksgiving Day, never knew to what lengths they were to drive the ingenuity of their poor descendants. But it wasn't their fault after all, that the preparer of the Thanksgiving feast today has to attend just as much to the turkey's surroundings as to the turkey itself. It was good enough for them to have a well-stocked larder from which could come the turkey, the celery, the pumpkin pie, the cranberries and all the other goodies which history puts down to their credit. Even the comparatively recent New Englanders were content with all these as long as they looked tempting and tasted good. But today, even the important few itself is hardly more important than the ribbons, the candies, the favors, the adornments of all kinds, which must appear on the Thanksgiving table.

"Don't bother about having too much to eat," an up-to-date daughter was heard to say to her New England mother the other day. "I want plenty of room for the ribbons and the candy boxes."

It's the same way with other daughters of an esthetic turn of mind, rather than a practical one, and it looks as if their ambitions to "make things look pretty" may be realized this year, for there is a goodly array of Thanksgiving favors and table decorations of all kinds.

Of course the turkey reigns supreme, even if it is in paper, and is seen in all sizes, all kinds, roasted to a beautiful dark brown as the cook-book says, or standing important and majestic with its big fan-shaped feather tail high in the air. In most cases the favor turkey is meant for candy, but certain new china turkeys are mustard cups.

The pumpkin is next in importance and is seen in many of the novelties. There are large paper pumpkins for centerpieces and all sorts of small

ones in paper mache or tissue paper which are candy boxes. Fruits and vegetables of all kinds seem to be suggestive of the season of feasting, and many good imitations are found among the candy box collections. Cobblers, little men are made of paper fruits and fixed up to have a very grotesque appearance, and funny little figures are made of peanuts, and mounted on cards. Nuts are tied up in ribbons and are found to be prize packages for the receiver, for in them are neatly packed little stick-pins, whistles, etc., all carefully concealed within the paper shells.

The place cards allow of a great many new designs, and an especially new feature among these is some small mirrors. The chrysanthemum is the leading flower among the paper bowers, and those in yellow or orange seem to be the most desired shades. Other imitations which are especially "life-like" are the painted piece of the pumpkin pie, the tin of Boston baked beans, the plum pudding and the ear of corn.

"I am gratified," said the first prominent citizen, "to observe the undercurrent of joy in the Thanksgiving proclamation of the governor. Hitherto the proclamations have been along the old cut and dried, stilted forms, but in this instance there is a certain tone of joyfulness, of thankfulness, of pure gratefulness that is really inspiring."

"Yes," agrees the second prominent citizen, "but it's no wonder the governor felt good when he wrote that proclamation."

"No. He has started on what seems destined to be a good administration, already there is talk of promoting him to some higher office in the gift of the people."

"And besides," interrupts the second man, "the governor owns one of the largest turkey farms in the state. It is to the Great Disposer of all events, for the seasonable control which has been given in a spirit of disorder in the suppression of the late insurrection." What the president had in mind in this allusion was the "great whiskey insurrection" in Pennsylvania in 1794, caused by the passage by congress of acts imposing duties upon spirits distilled and upon stills. It was finally suppressed by Governor Lee of Maryland, with 15,000 troops, acting under orders of the president.

## NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



The problem is not how much land you have, but how well you cultivate it. Make the hay land produce nine tons per acre, and four or five acres of hay will be enough. Make the corn land produce 200 bushels per acre, and cut down the area to one-fourth. Do the same with the other crops, and you will soon find that you have much more land than you can possibly cultivate.

The farmer raises cattle and hogs with a view of rapid development of fat, but the horse is used for mechanical power and should develop great bone and muscle. Muscular development cannot be attained in close confinement and the young animal should not be tied in a stall and fed corn and timothy hay to fatten him for the shambles.

Unless there is an experienced and successful corn breeder in the vicinity who makes a specialty of growing first-class seed corn, every farmer had better make his own selection from his own field or from the best fields of neighboring farms.

No kind of live stock can thrive and do well in ill-lighted, poorly-aired buildings. One of the first requirements in a stable is that it should be well provided with windows, and have means for letting fresh air in and foul air out.

The introduction of the English sparrow by its driving away the little native birds has been responsible for more damage by insects and weed pests than all other causes combined, including cats, and boys with guns.

If the hens are protected against the cold winds while they are enjoying the sunshine of the yards, they will surely lay more eggs than if not thus shielded, while the reduced feed bill will compensate for the expense incurred.

Paint the staves on all sides before erecting the silo, rather than to paint the exterior later on, since paint put on the outside afterward holds water in the cracks and causes the staves to decay more rapidly.

If the cows are stabled at night, much fertilizer is saved that would otherwise be dropped in the pasture and disintegrated by wind, rain and sun loss its strength and be lost.

Nine tons is a large yield of hay from a single acre, and few would expect this yield from Bermuda grass, yet such is the case, or at least from an acre of vetch and Bermuda.

The largest beet sugar factory in the United States is at Spreckles, California, which has a capacity of slicing 3,000 tons of beets per day, equal to 100 carloads of 30 tons each.

The women folks on the farm should assert their rights and have the modern and necessary equipments in the dairy, and thus produce, with less labor, a good article of butter.

If there is any doubt whether land needs lime or not, test it. One method is to grow common garden beets. This plant makes a very poor growth on soil which needs lime.

Fashionable folks are taking up horses again, the automobile having become too common for them. And farmers are buying automobiles to save their horses.

The dairy cow, if able to express herself in a way which the human family would comprehend, might well lay claim to being man's best friend.

For home use, the garden, the arbor, the boundary fence and even the veranda are the locations generally available for the growth of the grape.

The succulent grasses are rich in muscle and bone-forming materials and are loosening and cooling to the system.

Probably no one thing enters more into commercial fruit growing than proper packing.

No other branch of farming pays as well as a good orchard, if well taken care of.

Once settled indoors, the house plants must be sure of regular attention if they are to be a success.

Horse manure is much better to be mixed with other manure and worked over by swine.

A useful and ornamental plant is parsley. It may easily be kept for use all winter.

The ewes intended for breeding purposes should be sorted as early as possible and put upon good pasture.

Ewes for breeding purposes should not be overly fat, but in a strong, vigorous, thrifty condition.

A hog can be starved to eat almost anything, but seldom does well on spoiled feed.

Cabbage growers should insure future crops against club root.

Marsh land is usually rich, and all it needs to make it productive is drainage. The fall of the year is the best time to drain—before the winter rains set in. If the ground is not too soft for the horses, one or more furrows may be run out with the two-horse plow. Hook three horses to the plow. An extra man should follow with sharp ax to cut the roots. The ditch may be deepened by the use of the lifting subsoil plow. To do good work a heavy match team in the hands of a capable plowman is necessary. After land is drained, turn the sod over with the three-horse plow.

It is now time to be thinking seriously of winter protection for small fruits. For strawberries, the usual covering of straw is good. In mild locations a layer of straw not less than four inches thick should be applied. In more severe locations this would be increased to six inches, and in the prairie sections it is desirable to use eight inches of straw, or even more.

The prevailing fence of today is the woven wire variety. No better fence was ever devised, provided it is put up well, and no other fence is so poor, ugly and inefficient if it is erected in a slipshod manner.

Pick the fruit, empty it onto the sorting tables and pack it right in the orchard. If this method is practised much labor is saved, for the whole work is completed as soon as the fruit is gathered from the trees.

It has been conclusively proven that hens kept in a yard and fed right will lay more eggs than hens that run at large all over creation. The feed bill will not be so large either, a fact that is worth considering.

If swine are kept penned and are given absorbents enough to keep them fairly clean and dry, they will nearly earn their keep in the amount of fertilizer they will make, and it is the best of its kind.

Apples will not be over-produced until every man, woman and child in the land has all the apples he or she can use, and gets them at a moderate price.

If not done, plant your gooseberries and currants this fall. Grape vine should be laid down and covered with straw. Even the old Concord cannot stand our strenuous winters.

Start the trap nests so it can be known which are the best winter layers. Almost any old hen will lay in spring and summer; it takes a good hen to lay in late fall and winter.

Not all regions and all soils are suitable for growing a good quality of onions, and only recently have onion growers found out that peaty, swamp lands made the best onion ground.

Nitrate of soda will force the growth of melons, tomatoes and other plants. A tablespoonful scattered about each tomato plant and slightly raked in will produce good results.

There is a great region of country where the blackberry may be called the poor man's fruit. This is true because of the ease and certainty with which it is produced.

Every foal at weaning age has cost the breeder considerable money, and the preservation and development of the foal has much to do with the profits of the farm.

In marketing onions the first essential is to properly grade and clean the bulbs, in order that they may present an attractive appearance when offered for sale.

Insignificant matters often do not attract attention, yet a little crack in the poultry house, if near where the fowls roost, will cause suffering sooner or later.

The sow that has proven herself extra valuable as a breeder and a mother should be one of the most prized animals on the farm.

In mending a steep place in the roadside, briars, brush and all fence row mowings make good material to lay down to place the dirt upon.

In erecting a woven wire fence one of the essential things to be considered is that of strong and well supported corner or end posts.

The great value of lime in the soil is its power to correct soil acidity, or sourness, and to improve its texture or physical condition.

Well bred heifer calves may often be purchased cheaply of people who live in town and keep but one cow for family use.

The market for small fruits is greater than ever, because the fruit is now bought up by the canning and preserving houses.

To make a success of dairying you can't know too much about your cows. No two cows are just alike.

The products of the dairy are perhaps the most useful articles included in the human diet.

Fall rains are searching. If there is any doubt about the roofs get at them now.

Location has much to do with the profitable disposal of second-class apples.

If there were no birds man could not live on the earth, and birds are decreasing in this country.

The advice to rake up the fallen leaves and use for a mulch in the garden is often given.

The spring is the time when asparagus roots are usually set, though the work may be done in the fall.

The Minnesota station heartily recommends fall plowing of the land for corn.

## Thanksgiving in Year 1795

Nowadays the Thanksgiving proclamation of the state and national executives are brief compared to what they were in the early days of our republic. In the case of the latter he doesn't foreshadow his forthcoming annual message as was somewhat the vogue in President Washington's time. This is seen in the Thanksgiving proclamations issued by our great and good first president in the early part of the year 1795, in which he appoint-

ed Feb. 19 as "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer." The "Father of His Country" was then 63 years of age and was serving his sixth year as president. It was a long document and covered quite a number of points. Of these, I will advert very briefly to only three or four which are peculiarly significant.

In the preamble he mentions, as the first subject, "demanding the public

attention on this solemn occasion, our exemption from a foreign war" and next proposes, as "an object of gratitude" the "increasing prospect of the continuance of our exemptions from a foreign war." Which propositions evidently relate to the settlement, through special envoy, John Jay, of our serious troubles with Great Britain, growing out of the continued occupation by the British of the western forts on Lake Erie, contrary to the treaty of 1783; and the seizure of American vessels bound for French

ports by British ships and the imprisonment of American seamen.

Another cause for thanksgiving, according to the same high authority, is "the great degree of internal tranquility we have enjoyed." To which is added "our cause for thankfulness for the recent confirmation of that tranquility by the suppression of an insurrection which so wantonly threatened it."

And in another place the president repeats this idea, asking his people "to render a tribute of praise and grat-